

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to add a paragraph identifying the parent application and foreign priority and to improve the form of the claims as originally filed.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 1/6/04

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